



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

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**U.S. SEARCH AND SEIZURE OPERATION TARGETS 16 CHINATOWN  
STORES SEEKING ENDANGERED TIGER AND RHINO PRODUCTS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that agents of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, assisted by officers from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, conducted a search and seizure operation through stores in Chinatown allegedly selling products containing, or advertised as containing, body parts of endangered tigers and rhinoceros. The operation was conducted pursuant to search warrants signed by United States Magistrate Judge GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN.

The search and seizure was authorized by the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1998 ("the Act"), which was enacted to eliminate the United States market for traditional medicines made from tiger and rhinoceros and thereby reduce the incentive to kill these endangered animals. The Act provides that a person may not sell or attempt to sell any product intended for human consumption that contains or is labeled or advertised as

containing any substance derived from any species of tiger or rhino. Under the Act, any such substance is subject to seizure and forfeit to the Government.

Many of the stores that were the targets of the search and seizure operation allegedly have been selling products in violation of the Act for years, despite packaging and labeling in both English and Chinese clearly indicating that the products contained the forbidden ingredients.

Mr. KELLEY stated that the search and seizure operation should serve as a warning that, when appropriate, the Federal Government will aggressively enforce the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act to ensure that the United States does not create a market for trafficking in these endangered species.

Assistant United States Attorney HEIDI A. WENDEL is in charge of the case.

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